

Remarks

Claims 7-12, 17-21 and 25 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-6, 13-16 and 22-24 are cancelled and claims 21 and 25 are amended.

Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to cancelled non-elected claims 1-6, 13-16, 22 and 24.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Office Action indicates that claims 7-12 and 17-20 are allowed and claims 23 and 25 include allowable subject matter.

I. The Claims Satisfy All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the claims based on informalities. Claims 21 and 25 are amended to obviate this objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Satisfy the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101

The Office Action rejects claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The language of claim 23 has been placed into independent claim 21 and is amended to obviate this rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101 is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Eriksen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,945,941) in view of Blakeley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,038,785). Claim 21 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 23. Thus, the rejection of claim 21 is rendered moot.

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Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Conclusions

For all the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and request the allowance of Claims 7-12, 17-21 and 25. No fees are deemed necessary for the filing of this Amendment. However, if any additional fees are required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 01-1785.

Respectfully submitted,

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